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## Case Report

# A Case of Multiple Myeloma Coexisting with Primary Hyperparathyroidism and Review of the Literature

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Hypercalcemia is a common medical problem with an estimated prevalence of 15% among hospitalized patients. Multiple myeloma (MM) and primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) are among the most common causes of hypercalcemia but coexistence of both pathologic processes in a patient is an extremely rare phenomenon. In this paper we have discussed a patient presenting with this rare phenomenon. We have also provided a comprehensive review of the scientific literature published on codiagnosis of MM and PHPT.

#### 1. Introduction

Hypercalcemia is a common clinical problem with an estimated prevalence of 15% among hospitalized patients [31]. The etiology of hypercalcemia is complex with many factors playing a pathogenic role. From a clinical standpoint, it may present with changes in mental status, generalized weakness, polyuria, and constipation. Multiple myeloma (MM) and primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT) are among the most common causes of hypercalcemia but coexistence of the two pathologic processes in one patient is an extremely rare phenomenon. In this paper, we have discussed a patient presenting with this rare phenomenon and have reviewed the relevant scientific literature.

#### 2. Case Presentation

A 92-year-old Caucasian female with a past medical history of Alzheimer's dementia, seizure disorder, osteoporosis, and osteoarthritis was admitted to the hospital for an evaluation of a new onset confusion and constipation. Review of symptoms during admission was significant for anorexia, weight loss, constipation for the last three weeks, and history of a fall one month prior to the presentation. Family history was

significant for MM in a sister. At the time of presentation, the patient was using donepezil, memantine, vitamin D with calcium, calcium carbonate (calcium containing antacid), and levetiracetam. Vitals at the time of admission were blood pressure 140/58, pulse 68, respiratory rate 18, oxygen saturation 98% on room air, and temperature 97.4. On physical examination, the patient was alert and oriented in place and person but not in time. Other significant findings were diastolic murmur in right second intercostal space, petechiae over lower extremities, and back tenderness, which the patient attributed to a recent fall. Lumbar spine Xray was done three weeks prior to the presentation that showed degenerative changes with no evidence of fracture. Basic blood workup including complete blood count and comprehensive metabolic panel was done, which revealed anemia, leucopenia, and hypercalcemia. Home medications were held for concerns of hypercalcemia and confusion.

Endocrinology and neurology services were consulted. MRI of the brain was done, which showed lytic lesions as shown in Figure 1. MM was suspected; serum protein electrophoresis (SPEP), urine protein electrophoresis (UPAP) and bone marrow biopsy were done which confirmed the diagnosis of MM (IgG kappa) (International Staging System stage II). Bone marrow biopsy showed mildly hypercellular

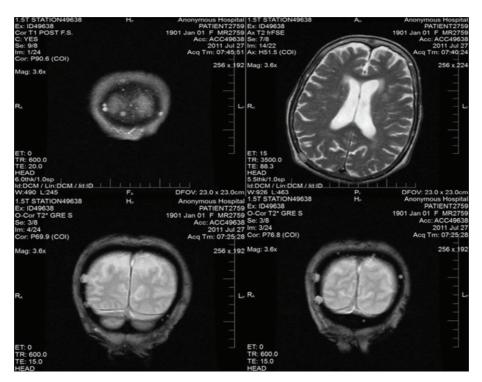


FIGURE 1: MRI demonstrating lytic lesions.

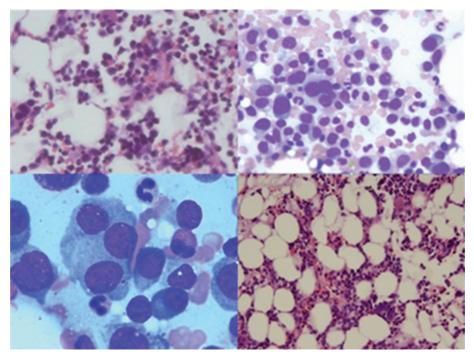


FIGURE 2: Mildly hypercellular bone marrow with plasmacytosis (30%), consistent with multiple myeloma.

bone marrow with plasmacytosis (30%) as shown in Figure 2. Skeletal survey showed diffuse lytic lesions throughout long bones, pelvis, and skull (Figure 3). Surprisingly, intact PTH came back high suggesting primary hyperparathyroidism (PHPT). The data on laboratory tests are presented in Table 1.

Hypercalcemia was managed with intravenous hydration, calcitonin, bisphosphonates, and furosemide. The patient was started on melphalan and prednisone, which were later switched to lenalidomide with a high dose of dexamethasone due to a poor treatment response. After one and a half year,

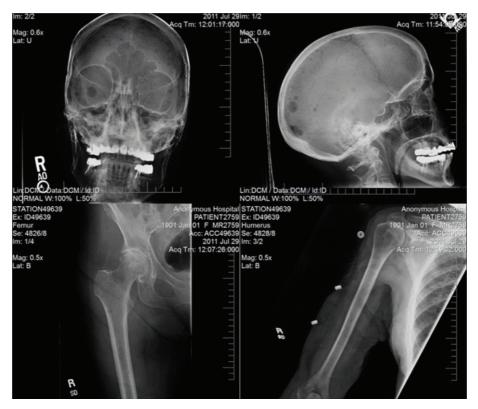


FIGURE 3: Skeletal survey showing lytic lesions in long bones and skulls.

the patient is still following in our outpatient oncology center being on a low dose of lenalidomide with a stable M protein.

#### 3. Discussion

Hypercalcemia is common in patients with MM and occurs in 28% of myeloma cases [32]. MM may cause hypercalcemia through multiple mechanisms. First, plasma cells produce various cytokines, including TNF- $\beta$  and IL-6, that activate osteoclasts and lead to calcium washout from bones to the bloodstream [33]. Second, some studies suggest that MM cells may secrete parathyroid hormone-related peptide similarly to other malignancies, such as squamous cell lung carcinoma [34, 35]. Third, serum calcium may be falsely elevated because of a binding to immunoglobulin [36, 37].

Clubb et al. [38] described first-case linking PHPT and paraproteinemia in 1964. Drezner and Lebovitz were the first who described a case of concomitant MM and PHPT in 1979 [30]. Some researchers speculate that the association between MM and PHTP may not be coincidental [39, 40], although mechanisms explaining codiagnosis are not known. Arnulf et al. showed that the prevalence of monoclonal gammopathy is higher in patients with PHTP as compared to general population [40]. Pest et al. hypothesized that elevated PTH may mediate the induction of MM through the downstream biological effects of IL-6 [1]. This hypothesis was supported by the study performed by Pirih et al., who showed that PTH decreases apoptotic cell death of the hematopoietic stem cells via the IL-6 [41].

PHPT leads to hypercalcemia via direct bone resorption [42] mediated by osteoclasts. Another important mechanism is through an increased calcium absorption in the duodenum and greater reabsorption in the kidneys.

The above-mentioned pathogenic mechanism gives an insight to how PHPT and MM may be linked. Some studies have suggested that calcium may act as a mitogenic factor [43], whereas others suggest that myelomatous proteins may interfere with polypeptide hormone synthesis bind their circulating fractions, and/or block their peripheral effects that may secondarily stimulate parathyroid gland [29]. However, both of these diseases are common among elderly and may share similar risk factors, such as ionizing radiation [44, 45], and a simple coincidence may be the case.

Summary of published cases [1–28] is presented in Table 2. Codiagnosis of PHPT and MM should be suspected in cases of difficult-to-control hypercalcemia. Most of the cases of coexistent MM and PHPT have been observed in females (23 out of 29 reported cases). The youngest patient with codiagnosis was a 45-year-old female and the oldest patient was a 92-year-old female. PHPT is more common in females, whereas the opposite is true for MM. Differences in incidence of the two diseases may explain female preponderance (MM less frequent than PHPT). Initial diagnosis was highly variable, eleven cases had primary diagnosis of hyperparathyroidism, ten had primary diagnosis of MM and seven had both diagnosis made at presentation. The type of immunoglobulin chains of MM observed in all the cases was variable as six patients had light chain MM, remaining

Reference range 3.3-19.4 mg/L 5.7-26.3 0.26 - 1.65

0 - 1500.74 - 1.57

0.74 - 1.57

IGM

Table 1

Table 1: Continued.

TA	ABLE 1		Table 1: Continued.			
Result name	Results	Reference range	Result name	Results	Referenc range	
WBC	2.9 K/mm cu	4.2-11.0	Free kappa light chains	1510	3.3–19.4 mg	
Platelet	156 K/mm cu	140-400	Free lambda light chains	2.4	5.7-26.3	
Hemoglobin Hb	9.0 g/dL	12.0-15.0	Free Kappa/lambda	629.17	0.26-1.65	
Hematocrit	27.1%	36.0-47.0	Urine protein electrophoresis			
Reticulocyte	0.7%	0.5–2.8	Urine volume 24 hours	1150 mL/24 hour		
Blood urea nitrogen	22 mg/dL	5–20	Urine-protein electrophoresis			
Creatinine	1.11 mg/dL	0.0-1.00	(UPE)	253 mg/24 hour	0-165	
Sodium	143 mmol/L	135–145	Albumin UPE	30.6%		
Potassium	4.0 mmol/L	3.4-5.1				
Chloride	104 mmol/L	98–109	Alphal	16.1%		
Bicarbonate	33 mmol/L	23–31	Alpha2	14.1%		
Calcium	13.3 mg/dL	8.4–10.5	Beta	17.1%		
Total protein	7.0 g/dL	6.4-8.3	Gamma	22.1%		
Albumin	4.0 g/dL	3.4-5.2	Immunofixation	Free kappa light		
Aspartate amino transferase	20 IU/L	0–32	immunonxation	chains		
Alanine amino transferase Alkaline phosphatase	10 IU/L 67 IU/L	0-40 35-104	24-hour-urine protein	310.5 mg/24 hour	0-150	
Bilirubin total	$0.2\mathrm{mg/dL}$	0-10.0	24-hours-urine creatinine	0.7 g/24 hour	0.74-1.57	
Haptoglobin	157 mg/dL	36-195	24-hour-urine volume	1150 cc		
Vitamin B12	532 pg/mL	211-946	24-hour-urine creatinine	0.5 g/24 hour	0.74-1.57	
TSH	1.160 uIU/mL	0.400 - 5.400		900 mL (repeat	0.71 1.07	
Vitamin D25 OH	47.0 ng/mL	30.0-100.0	24-hour-urine volume	test)		
25 Hydroxy D3	26 pg/mL		24-hour-urine calcium	239 mg/24 hour	100-300	
25 hydroxy D2	<8		Serum protein electrophoresis	<i>g.</i>		
Vitamin D 1,25(OH)2	26	18-72	Albumin	3.3 g/dL	3.1-5.0	
Folate	>20.0 ng/mL	3.1–17.5		_		
Ferritin	64 ng/mL	13-150	Alpha 1	0.3 g/dL	0.2-0.5	
Phosphorous	2.8 mg/dL	2.0-4.0	Alpha2	0.7 g/dL	0.5–1.1	
Lactate dehydrogenase	137 IU/L	135-214	Beta	0.6 g/dL	0.6-1.1	
Total iron	30 ug/dL	30-160	Gamma	1.5 g/dL	0.7-1.7	
Unsaturated IBC	234.0 ug/dL	110.0-370.0	Albumin/globulin	1.0		
Total IBC	264.0	228.0-428.0	M spike	1.09 g/dL		
Percentage of iron saturation	11%	20-55	Total protein	6.5 g/dL	6.4-8.3	
PTH intact on day of presentation	70.5 pg/mL	15.0-65.0	Immunofixation	Monoclonal para class IgG kappa	aprotein of	
PTH 7 months later	540.0 pg/mL		CD56 NK cells	63%	3-35	
PTH-related protein	18 pg/mL 3.3 mg/L	14–27	CD 138 marker	26%	3 33	
Beta-2 microglobulin	(5.8 mg/L four	0.8-2.2	Lambda B-cell marker	1%	1–7	
	months later)		Kappa B-cell marker	73%	2-14%	
Serum viscosity	1.5 relative to $H_2O$	1.5-1.9	CD45 LCA	98%	92–100	
PT/INR	10.6/1.0 sec	9.211.8/0.9-1.1	CD38 Marker	26%	1–17	
APTT	29 sec	24-33	Pathology. Normal female bone marr or numerical chromosome abnormali			
Immunoglobulins			normal hybridization signals with Mi			
IGA	29 mg/dL 692 mg/dL	50-400	of chromosome rearrangements know Surgical Pathology. Mildly hyper cells	n to be associated w	ith MM.	
IGG	(1200, 5 months later)	600-1500	consistent with MM.  Leukemia/lymphoma panel. Bone marrow aspirate shows 30–40% pla cells with kappa light chain restrictions. (plasma cell dyscrasia).			
7017		<b>=</b> 0.000	Danish and Consan I romph a critica with			

6 mg/dL

50 - 300

No clonal, structural, SH analysis indicates nis excludes majority l with MM.

with plasmacytosis

ows 30-40% plasma cells with kappa light chain restrictions. (plasma cell dyscrasia). Peripheral Smear. Lymphocytes with foamy cytoplasm, no rouleaux formation, adequate polys with occasional platelet clumps.

Table 2

n	Author	Age/ Gender	Type of MM	Ca (mg/dL)	Therapy for MM and PHPT	Parathyroid histology	Outcome	Initial diagnosis
1	Pest et al. [1]	76 F	IgA-?	13.2	Hydration, bisphosphonates, Lasix, melphalan, cyclophosphamide, and steroids	Adenoma	Survived	РНРТ
2	Rao et al. [2]	54 M	IgG- lambda	11.2	Adriamycin, melphalan, prednisone, cyclophosphamide, and parathyroidectomy	Adenoma	Died after 12 years	Both
3	Jackson and Orland [3]	45 F	IgG- lambda	17.1	Hydration, Lasix, prednisone, and melphalan	Adenoma	_	MM
4	Chisholm et al. [4]	80 M	Kappa	13.1	Parathyroidectomy, radiotherapy, melphalan, prednisone, vincristine, carmustine, cyclophosphamide, hydration, and Lasix	Adenoma (c-cells)	Died 2 years later	РНРТ
5	Francis et al. [5]	70F	Lambda	11.6	Norethisterone, vincristine, melphalan, and prednisone	Adenoma	Died 3 weeks later	PHPT
6	Mundis and kyle [6]	76 F	IgG-kappa	11.0	Melphalan, prednisone, and parathyroidectomy	Adenoma (c-cells)	survived	MM
7	Stone et al. [7]	47 F	IgA-kappa	13.7	Melphalan, prednisone, radiotherapy, parathyroidectomy, hydration, and mithramycin	Adenoma	Died	MM
8	Hoelzer and Silverberg [8]	51 F	IgA- lambda	11.9	Parathyroidectomy?	Adenoma (c-cells)	_	PHPT
9	Schneider and Thomas [9]	74 F	IgG-kappa	12.0	Melphalan, prednisone, and parathyroidectomy	Adenoma	Survived	MM
10	Toussirot et al. [10]	82 M	Kappa	15.2	Melphalan, prednisone, and parathyroidectomy	Hyperplasia	Died	PHPT
11	Goto et al. [11]	73 F	Kappa	13.2	Parathyroidectomy, melphalan	Adenoma	Died 1 year later	PHPT
12	Otsuka et al. [12]	77 F	IgG- lambda		Melphalan, prednisone, bisphosphonates, calcitonin, and parathyroidectomy	c-cells hyperplasia	Survived	_
13	Fery-Blanco et al. [13]	68 F	IgG-kappa	11.28	? chemotherapy and surgery refused	Adenoma	Died	Both
14	Sarfati et al. [14]	62 F	IgA-kappa	16.4	Mithramycin, lasix, plasmaphoresis, Adriamycin, vincristine, prednisone, and parathyroidectomy	Adenoma	Survived	MM
15	Rosen et al. [15]	81 M	IgG-kappa	13.4	Hydration, bisphosphonates, melphalan, prednisone, radiotherapy, needle aspiration of parathyroid gland, and refused surgery	Adenoma	Survived	MM
16	Tomon et al. [16]	60 F	IGA-kappa	_	_	_	_	MM
17	Fanari et al. [17]	59 F	lambda	12.7	Hydration, bisphosphonates, cinacalcet, bortezomib and dexamethasone	Possible Adenoma	Died 4 months later	Both
18	Bogas et al. [18]	72 F	IgG-kappa	13.66	Melphalan, prednisone, and Interferon?	Adenoma	Died 4 years later	Both
19	Katayama et al. [19]	50 F						PHPT
20	Romagnoli et al. [20]	70 F	_	_	Parathyroidectomy, steroids and chemotherapy	Adenoma	_	PHPT (MEN-1)
21	Toh and Winocour et al. [21]	71 M		12.0	Melphalan, prednisone, and bisphosphonates		Died 6 weeks later	MM
22	Sopeña et	77 F	Kappa (ns)	12.9	Bisphosphonates, refused surgery, or chemotherapy		Died 1 year later	Both

TABLE 2: Continued.

n	Author	Age/ Gender	Type of MM	Ca (mg/dL)	Therapy for MM and PHPT	Parathyroid histology	Outcome	Initial diagnosis
23	Khandwala and Boctor [23]	72 F	_	11.7/ 16.6*	Parathyroidectomy, bisphosphonates, calcitonin, melphalan, and prednisone	Adenoma	_	РНРТ
24	Patel et al. [24]	73 F	IgG- kappa	13.5	Bisphosphonates, steroids, thalidomide, plicamycin, and parathyroidectomy	Adenoma	_	MM
25	Avcioglu et al. [25]	52 F	IgG-kappa	12.6	Parathyroidectomy and steroids	Adenoma	_	Both
26	Chowdhury and Scarsbrook et al. [26]	87 F	_	_	_	_	-	РНРТ
27	Dalgleish and Gatenby [27]	59 F	IgG- lambda	11.68	Hydration, lasix, prednisone, mithramycin, cyclophosphamide, and parathyroidectomy	Adenoma	Survived	MM
28	Peters et al. [28]	73 M	IgA- lambda	16	Parathyroidectomy, chemotherapy, and radiotherapy	Hyperplasia	Died 1 week later	PHPT
29	Our case	92 F	IgG-kappa	13 .3	Bisphosphonates, Lasix, hydration, calcitonin, melphalan, prednisone, lenalidomide, and dexamethasone	_	Survived	Both

Johansson and Werner [29] mentioned 3 cases of MM and PHPT (no detail of the cases is given), one other such as has been described by Drezner and Lebovitz [30] without much detail.

patients had a combination of heavy and light chain MM, one patient had nonsecretory type of MM. All the patients had calcium ≥11 mg/dL at the time of presentation. Majority of patients had parathyroid adenoma as a cause of PHPT, few had chief cell hyperplasia, and none had parathyroid cancer. Parathyroidectomy, combination of radiotherapy, and chemotherapy had been used for treatment of this coexistent condition with variable success. Rao et al. [2] suggested that parathyroidectomy in patients with coexistent PHPT and MM serves three folds; first, it removes confusion about etiology of hypercalcemia; second, it alters prognosis of myeloma; third, calcium can be used as a tumor marker in cases if there is a recurrence of tumor. Considering age, our patient was not a candidate for surgery, in such patient population medical alternative to parathyroidectomy is needed. Ten out of 29-patients died within 5 years after codiagnosis, and out of those ten, eight died within one year.

#### 4. Conclusions

A search for concomitant cause of hypercalcemia should be pursued in cases of difficult-to-control hypercalcemia and in elderly individuals, in whom the incidence of PTHP and MM is common.

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<sup>\*</sup>Calcium at time of diagnosis of MM.

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